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MATERIAL ON TRIAL OF PENKOVSKIY, WYNNE

10 May Afternoon Session

Moscow TASS in English to Europe 1337 GMT 10 May 1963--1

(Text) Moscow--The pleadings of both sides began at the afternoon session of the court hearing the case of spy Oleg Penkovskiy and spy liaison-man Greville Wynne. All those present at the trial listened closely to the speech of state prosecutor General Gornyy.

Member of the Moscow City college of barristers Konstantin Apraksin, who is defense counsel for defendant Penkovskiy, asked the military collegium to spare his life. Apraksin did not dispute the indictment against Penkovskiy but he held that "his sincere repentance, his desire to redeem his fault, the many good things done by Penkovskiy earlier, despite the depth of his fall, give grounds to ask for mercy." The lawyer noted that in an atmosphere of general indignation and resentment it was difficult for him to carry on the defense "because my countrymen see absolutely no reason why Penkovskiy should be defended or why his responsibility to the law extenuated." But in this difficult defense, Apraksin said, he was helped by the humanity of Soviet laws which insure the defense objectivity and a thorough investigation of the materials of the case to any citizen who lands in court.

Apraksin held that Penkovskiy became a criminal because he displayed "self-adoration and unwillingness to reckon with the collective, the comrades, and the standards of our morality." He added that "disregard for these norms and career-mindedness which grew into adventurism--everything enumerated above brought Penkovskiy into court." The defense counsel claimed that, as shown by the conscientious life and work of Penkovskiy, he is a man who stumbled, not an enemy of the society which brought him up but a Philistine who went far in his mistakes. The crimes committed by Penkovskiy were the logical end of his Philistinism. Apraksin called the attention of the court to the fact that Penkovskiy, when called to answer for his deeds, realized the gravity of his crimes and helped the investigation expose the spies with automatic passports at the American and British embassies in Moscow.